

Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-49. Canceled

50. (Currently Amended) ~~A seamless~~ Seamless capsule ~~having~~ comprising a polysaccharide gel membrane on the outer surface; ~~and optionally a coating on said gel membrane, wherein:~~

(i) ~~said capsules encapsulating~~ encapsulates an emulsion ~~of~~ comprising at least one oil, water and at least one emulsifier,

(ii) ~~wherein~~ said oil is present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of said emulsion,

(iii) ~~said polysaccharide gel membrane is an ionic gel membrane comprising at least one of alginate, propylene glycol alginate or pectin and said at least one of alginate, propylene glycol alginate or pectin is a salt of calcium, strontium, barium or aluminum,~~

(iv) ~~said capsule is oblong, oval, or cylindrical, and~~

(v) ~~with the proviso that~~ said emulsion does not contain marmelo mucilage.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~The seamless~~ Seamless capsule of claim 50, wherein the capsule is dried.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The seamless capsule~~ Capsule of claim 50, having a wet capsule diameter in the range of 1 millimeter to 40 millimeters, wherein said gel membrane has a thickness in the range of 0.3 millimeters to 4 millimeters.

53. (Currently Amended) ~~The seamless capsule~~ Capsule of claim 50, wherein said capsule is dried and said gel membrane is a dry polysaccharide gel film on the outer surface which constitutes up to 30% by weight of the dried seamless capsule.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~The seamless capsule~~ Capsule of claim 53, wherein the dry polysaccharide gel film constitutes up to 10% by weight of the dried capsule.

55. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 50, having a dry capsule diameter in the range of 0.5 millimeter to 35 millimeters, wherein said dry polysaccharide gel film has a thickness in the range of 40 μm to 500 μm .

56-69. Canceled

70. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 50, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane is an alginate gel membrane.

71. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 50, wherein said capsule is enteric or delayed release.

72. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 50, wherein said capsule is immediate release.

73. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 71, wherein said gel membrane further comprises one or more secondary film formers selected from cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate succinate, methyl cellulose phthalate, ethylhydroxycellulose phthalate, polyvinylacetatephthalate, polyvinylbutyrate acetate, vinyl acetate-maleic anhydride copolymer, styrene-maleic mono-ester copolymer, methyl acrylate-methacrylic acid copolymer, methacrylate-methacrylic acid-octyl acrylate copolymer, or mixtures thereof.

74. (Currently Amended) The seamless capsule ~~Capsule~~ of claim 72, wherein said gel membrane further comprises one or more secondary film formers selected from propylene glycol alginate, polyvinyl alcohol, carrageenans, pectins, chitosans, guar gum, gum acacia, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, starches, maltodextrins or mixtures thereof.

75-78. Canceled

79. (New) A seamless capsule comprising a polysaccharide gel membrane on the outer surface and optionally a coating on said gel membrane, wherein:

(i) said capsule encapsulates an emulsion comprising at least one oil, water and at least one emulsifier,

(ii) said emulsion is an oil in water emulsion, wherein said at least one oil is present in an amount of from 85-95% by weight of said emulsion, and

(iii) said emulsion does not contain marmelo mucilage.

80. (New) A seamless capsule comprising a polysaccharide gel membrane on the outer surface and optionally a coating on said gel membrane, wherein:

(i) said capsule encapsulates a destabilized emulsion comprising at least one oil, at least one emulsifier and water, said oil is present in an amount of at least 50 % by weight of said destabilized emulsion and said water is present in an amount up to 20 % by weight of the capsules;

(ii) said capsule is oblong, oval, or cylindrical; and

(iii) said destabilized emulsion does not contain marmelo mucilage.

81. (New) A seamless capsule comprising a polysaccharide gel membrane on the outer surface and optionally a coating on said gel membrane, wherein:

(i) said capsule encapsulates an emulsion comprising at least one oil, water and at least one emulsifier,

(ii) said oil is present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of said emulsion,

(iii) said capsule further encapsulates at least one added component chosen from a solid, liquid, and gaseous component, wherein said solid and liquid component is present in an amount of from 30-85 wt% by weight of the dried capsule, and

(iv) said emulsion does not contain marmelo mucilage.

82. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50, 79 and 81, wherein said emulsion is dehydrated and keeps the structure of said emulsion.

83. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 and 81, wherein said capsule is oblong, oval, or cylindrical.

84. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion.

85. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said emulsion is a water-in-oil emulsion.

86. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said emulsion is a water-in-oil-in-water emulsion.

87. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50, 79 and 80, wherein said emulsion further comprises at least one component chosen from a pharmaceutical agent, a veterinary agent, a nutritional supplement, an agricultural agent, a cosmetic ingredient, a colorant, and a food.

88. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 87, wherein the at least one component is a pharmaceutical agent.

89. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 81, wherein said solid, liquid or gaseous component comprises at least one of a pharmaceutical agent, a veterinary agent, a nutritional supplement, an agricultural agent, cosmetic ingredient, colorant and a food.

90. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 89, wherein said solid, liquid or gaseous component is a pharmaceutical agent.

91. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 81, wherein said oil is present in an oil-in-water emulsion in an amount of from 70% by weight to 98% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

92. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 91, wherein said oil is present in said oil-in-water emulsion in an amount of from 85% by weight to 95% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

93. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 81, wherein said oil is present in a water-in-oil emulsion in an amount of from 65% by weight to 85% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

94. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 93, wherein said oil is present in said water-in-oil emulsion in an amount of from 70% by weight to 80% by weight of said oil, water, and at least one emulsifier.

95. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, wherein said capsule is enteric or delayed release.

96. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said at least one ionic polysaccharide is an alginate having a weight-average molecular weight of from 20,000 Daltons to 500,000 Daltons.

97. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said at least one ionic polysaccharide comprises a mixture of: (i) an alginate having a weight-average molecular weight of from 30,000 Daltons to 40,000 Daltons, and (ii) an alginate having a weight-average molecular weight of from 150,000 Daltons to 500,000 Daltons.

98. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 97, wherein said mixture of (i) and (ii) is in a ratio of from 0.1 to 20:1.

99. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 98, wherein said ratio is from 1 to 16:1.
100. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said ionic gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of at least 30%.
101. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 96, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of from 40% to 80%.
102. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 96 wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane comprises an alginate having a G content of from 50% to 90%.
103. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 87, wherein the at least one component is a nutritional supplement.
104. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, having a wet capsule diameter ranging from 1 millimeter to 40 millimeters, wherein said gel membrane has a thickness ranging from 0.3 millimeters to 4 millimeters.
105. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, wherein said capsule is dried and said gel membrane is a dry polysaccharide gel film on the outer surface which constitutes up to 30% by weight of the dried seamless capsule.
106. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 105, wherein the dry polysaccharide gel film constitutes up to 10% by weight of the dried seamless capsule.
107. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, having a dry capsule diameter ranging from 0.5 millimeter to 35 millimeters, wherein said dry polysaccharide gel film has a thickness ranging from 40 μm to 500 μm .

108. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane comprises an alginate gel membrane.

109. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 79 to 81, wherein said polysaccharide gel membrane further comprises one or more secondary film formers comprising at least one of cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate succinate, methyl cellulose phthalate, ethylhydroxycellulose phthalate, polyvinylacetatephthalate, polyvinylbutyrate acetate, vinyl acetate-maleic anhydride copolymer, styrene-maleic mono-ester copolymer, methyl acrylate-methacrylic acid copolymer, methacrylate-methacrylic acid-octyl acrylate copolymer, propylene glycol alginate, polyvinyl alcohol, carrageenans, pectins, chitosans, guar gum, gum acacia, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, starches, and maltodextrins.

110. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said oil is a pharmaceutical agent, a nutritional supplement, a flavor oil, or a food.

111. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 110, wherein said oil is a pharmaceutical agent.

112. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said oil is a carrier for at least one oil soluble active material and said at least one oil soluble active material comprises a pharmaceutical agent, a nutritional, flavor, fragrance, or a food.

113. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said oil comprises at least one of fatty acids or esters.

114. (New) The seamless capsule in any one of claims 50 and 79 to 81, wherein said oil is fish oil.

115. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 80, wherein said oil is present in an amount of from 70% by weight to 98% by weight of said destabilized emulsion.

116. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 115, wherein said oil is present in an amount of from 85% by weight to 95% by weight of said destabilized emulsion.

117. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 80, wherein said oil is present in an amount of from 65% by weight to 85% by weight of said destabilized emulsion.

118. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 117, wherein said oil is present in an amount of from 70% by weight to 80% by weight of said destabilized emulsion.

119. (New) The seamless capsule of claim 110, wherein said oil is a nutritional supplement.